Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Cancelled).

2.   (Currently Amended) A system for threading e-mail messages, comprising:

a mailbox processor module for receiving e-mail messages including a first e-mail message and a second e-mail message e-mails;

a mailbox, communicatively coupled to the mailbox processor module, for electronically storing the received e-mail messages;

a threading engine, communicatively coupled to the mailbox processor module, for:

determining that a the first received e-mail message is related to a the second e-mail message, the second e-mail message received previously subsequent to the first e-mail message;

creating an e-mail thread if the first e-mail message is related to the second e-mail message; and

associating the e-mail thread with the first e-mail message and the second e-mail message, the e-mail thread additionally including a persistent thread header, the thread header having information derived from attributes of at least one of the first or second e-mail e-mails messages; and

a display engine operable to display information about received e-mail messages in a user interface where thread header information is displayed and information for each email message associated with the email thread is not displayed.

3.   Cancelled

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the persistent thread header includes a subject of the e-mail thread.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the persistent thread header includes an originator of the e-mail thread.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the persistent thread header includes indicia of the number of messages in the thread.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the persistent thread header includes a time that the e-mail thread was most recently updated.

8.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2 wherein the threading engine additionally updates a the thread header associated with the existing e-mail thread.

9.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the thread header includes a subject of the e-mail thread.

10.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the thread header includes an originator of the e-mail thread.

11.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8 wherein the thread header includes indicia of the number of messages in the e-mail thread.

12.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the thread header includes a time that the e-mail thread was most recently updated.

13.   (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 36 wherein the persistent thread header includes a subject of the e-mail thread.

14.   (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 36 wherein the persistent thread header includes an originator of the e-mail thread.

15.   (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 36 wherein the ~~persistent~~ thread header includes indicia of the number of messages in e-mail thread.

16.   (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 36 wherein the ~~persistent~~ thread header includes a time that the e-mail thread was most recently updated.

17.   Cancelled

18.   (Currently Amended) A method for threading e-mail messages, ~~the method~~ comprising:
       receiving a first e-mail message;
       receiving a second e-mail message subsequent to the first e-mail message;
       determining that the first e-mail message is related to a second e-mail message~~, the second e-mail message received previously to the first e-mail message~~;
       creating an e-mail thread if the second e-mail message is related to the first e-mail message; ~~and~~
       associating the e-mail thread with the first e-mail message and the second e-mail message, the e-mail thread ~~additionally~~ including a persistent thread header, the thread header having information derived from attributes of at least one of the first or second e-mail ~~e-mails~~ messages; and
       displaying thread header information in a user interface where the thread header information is displayed in lieu of information for each e-mail message associated with the e-mail thread.

19.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 further comprising:
       receiving a third e-mail message;
       determining that the third e-mail message is related to the e-mail thread;
       associating the third e-mail message with the e-mail thread; and
       updating the ~~persistent~~ thread header to include information derived from attributes of the third e-mail message.

20.   Cancelled

Applicant : Forstall et al.
Serial No. : 10/602,335
Filed : June 23, 2003
Page : 5 of 15

Attorney's Docket No.: 18962-034001 / P3193US1

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~20~~ 18 wherein the displayed thread header information ~~is~~ includes displaying ~~ed in~~ a color associated with a sender of the first e-mail message.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~20~~ 18 wherein the displayed thread header information ~~is~~ includes ~~displayed~~ displaying ~~in~~ a color associated with a sender of the second e-mail message.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~20~~ 18 wherein each sender of an e-mail has an associated priority, and the displayed thread header information is displayed in a color associated with a sender having the highest priority.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~20~~ 18 further comprising displaying information from at least one unthreaded e-mail message in the same user interface.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~20~~ 18 further comprising displaying an expansion icon associated with the thread header in the user interface.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25 further comprising:
    responsive to a selection of the expansion icon, displaying information about each e-mail message associated with the e-mail thread in the user interface.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26 further comprising highlighting for selection an oldest unread e-mail message associated with the e-mail thread.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26 wherein e-mail messages associated with the e-mail thread are displayed in a common color.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the ~~first~~ second e-mail message is related to the ~~second~~ first e-mail message if it is a reply to the ~~second~~ first e-mail message.

Applicant : Forstall et al.   Attorney's Docket No.: 18962-034001 / P3193US1
Serial No. : 10/602,335
Filed   : June 23, 2003
Page   : 6 of 15

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the ~~first~~ second e-mail message is a reply to the ~~second~~ first e-mail message if a In-Reply-To field of a header of the ~~first~~ second e-mail message identifies the ~~second~~ first e-mail message.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the ~~first~~ second e-mail message is related to the ~~second~~ first e-mail message if it includes a forward of the ~~second~~ first e-mail message.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the first e-mail message and the second e-mail message are stored in different folders of a user's mailbox.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32 wherein at least one of the ~~e-mails~~ e-mail messages is stored in the user's sent items folder.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32 wherein at least one of the ~~e-mails~~ e-mail messages is stored in the user's personal items folder.

35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2 wherein the threading engine is further configured for:
       receiving a third e-mail message;
       determining that the third e-mail message is related to the e-mail thread;
       associating the third e-mail message with the e-mail thread; and
       updating the ~~persistent~~ thread header to include information derived from attributes of the third e-mail message.

36.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for threading e-mail messages, the program product stored on a computer readable medium and adapted to perform the operations of:

receiving a first e-mail message;

receiving a second e-mail message subsequent to the first e-mail message;

determining that the first e-mail message is related to a second e-mail message ~~the second e-mail message received previously to the first e-mail message~~;

creating an e-mail thread if the second e-mail message is related to the first e-mail message; ~~and~~

associating the e-mail thread with the first e-mail message and the second e-mail message, the e-mail thread ~~additionally~~ including a ~~persistent~~ thread header, the thread header having information derived from attributes of at least one of the ~~e-mails~~ e-mail messages; and

displaying thread header information in a user interface where the thread header information is displayed and information for each e-mail associated with the e-mail thread is not displayed.

37.   (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 36, further adapted for:

receiving a third e-mail message;

determining that the third e-mail message is related to the e-mail thread;

associating the third e-mail message with the e-mail thread; and

updating the ~~persistent~~ thread header to include information derived from attributes of the third e-mail message.

38.   (Currently Amended) A system for threading e-mail messages, ~~the method~~ comprising:

receiving means, for receiving a first e-mail <u>and a second e-mail</u> message;

determining means, communicatively coupled to the receiving means, for determining that the first e-mail message is related to a second e-mail message, the second e-mail message received ~~previously~~ <u>subsequent</u> to the first e-mail message;

creating means, communicatively coupled to the determining means, for creating an e-mail thread <u>if the first e-mail message is related to the second e-mail message;</u> and

associating means, communicatively coupled to the creating means, for associating the e-mail thread with the first e-mail <u>message</u> and the second e-mail <u>message,</u> the <u>e-mail</u> thread additionally including a ~~persistent~~ thread header, the thread header having information derived from attributes of at least one of the ~~e-mails~~ <u>e-mail messages; and</u>

<u>a display means operable to display information about received e-mail messages in a user interface where thread header information is displayed and information for each e-mail associated with the e-mail thread is not displayed.</u>

39.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein:

the receiving means are further configured to receive a third e-mail message;

the determining means are further configured to determine that the third e-mail message is related to the e-mail thread; and

the associating means are further configured to associate the third e-mail message with the e-mail thread and to update the persistent thread header to include information derived from the attributes of the third e-mail message.

Applicant : Forstall et al.
Serial No. : 10/602,335
Filed : June 23, 2003
Page : 9 of 15

Attorney's Docket No.: 18962-034001 / P3193US1

40.   (New) A method for threading e-mail messages, comprising:

receiving a first e-mail message;

receiving a second e-mail message that is related to the first e-mail message; and

threading the first e-mail message and the second e-mail message, the threading

including:

creating an e-mail thread having a thread header, the thread header having

information derived from attributes of at least one of the first or second e-mail messages; and

displaying the thread header.

41.   (New) The method of claim 40, further comprising:

receiving a third e-mail message related to either the first e-mail message or the second

e-mail message; and

updating the thread including updating the displayed thread header

42.   (New) A method for threading e-mail messages, comprising:

receiving a first e-mail message;

receiving a second e-mail message related to the first e-mail message; and

threading the first e-mail and the second e-mail, the threading including displaying a

display item indicating a nature of the relationship between the first e-mail message and the

second e-mail message.